

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

Construction to Low Volume Seal Standard of Access Roads to Schools and Clinics District Roads DR3562 (Makanga Access Road) and DR3525 (Masida Access Road) Zambezi Region, Namibia (Total Length: 6.58 km)

1. Introduction

Enviro Management Consultants Namibia (EMCN) was appointed by Tulipamwe Consulting Engineers (TCE) on behalf of the Roads Authority of Namibia (RA) to undertake an Environmental Scoping Assessment in accordance with the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 29 & 30 of 2012). The study seeks to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed construction of two short low volume seal access roads serving schools and clinics in the Linyanti Constituency, Zambezi Region.

2. Project Description

The proposed project comprises the following: - Upgrading to low volume seal standard of: - DR3562: Makanga Access Road (3.54 km) - DR3525: Masida Access Road (3.05 km) - Total project length: 6.58 km. - The roads will remain on existing alignments as far as possible to minimize vegetation loss and community disturbance. - Construction includes road widening, installation of drainage structures, and minor realignments where necessary. - Materials for sub-base and base layers will be sourced from approved borrow pits, and bitumen surfacing will be applied. - Construction water will be obtained from newly drilled boreholes near Makanga and Masida villages.

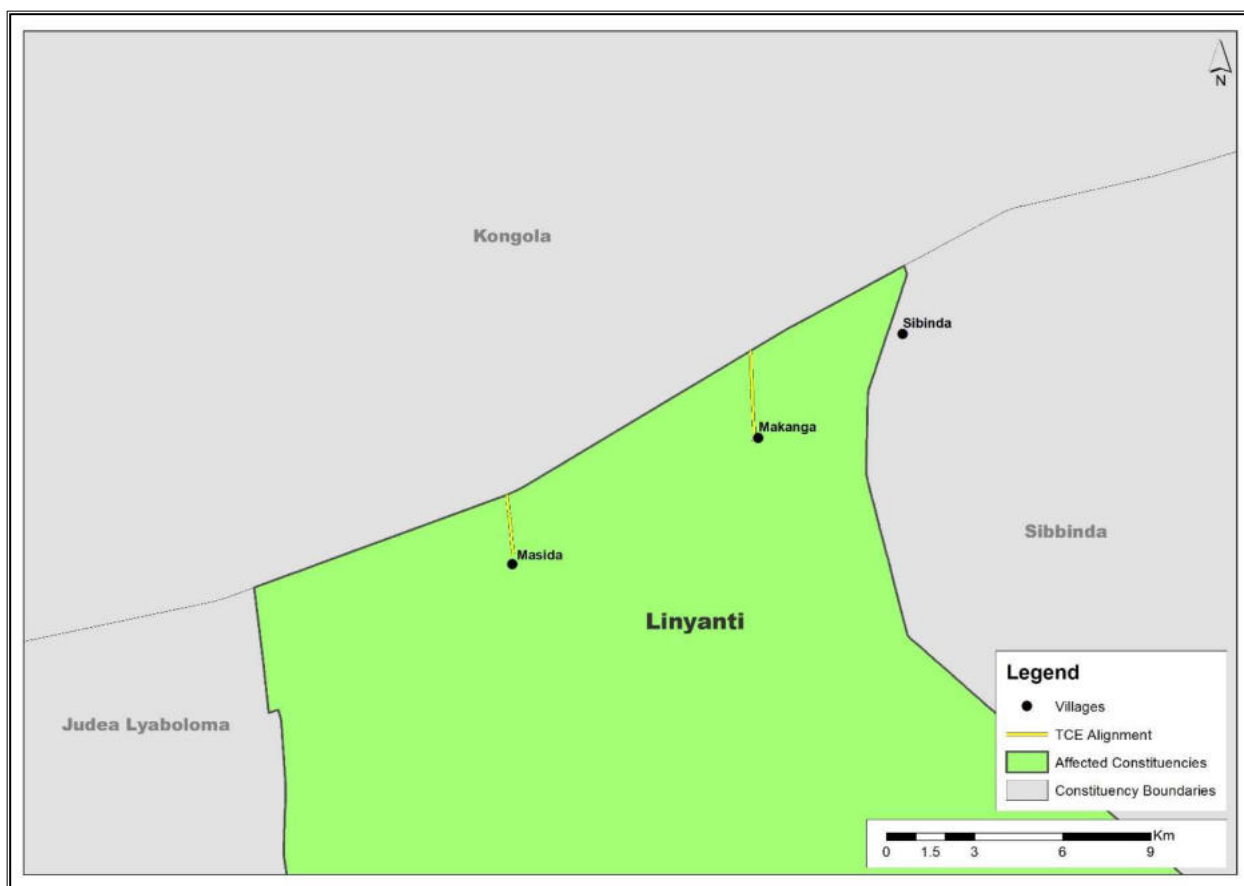


Figure 1: Locality Map

3. Purpose of the Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) aims to: - Identify, predict, and evaluate potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed works. - Ensure compliance with Namibian legislative and policy requirements. - Facilitate public participation among Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). - Recommend mitigation measures and develop an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

4. Environmental Setting

Aspect	Key Features	Environmental Sensitivity
Climate	Subtropical; mean annual rainfall 550–600 mm; summer peaks (Dec–Feb); average annual temperature 26–28°C	Moderate
Vegetation	Broadleaved Tree-and-Shrub Savanna; dominated by <i>Mopane</i> (<i>Colophospermum mopane</i>), <i>Baikiaea</i>	Moderate; some protected species

Aspect	Key Features	Environmental Sensitivity
	<i>plurijuga</i> (Zambezi teak), <i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i> (Kiaat)	
Fauna	Area falls within Sobbe Conservancy ; home to kudu, elephant, zebra, roan antelope, and hyaena	Moderate–High (wildlife movement)
Soils & Geology	Kalahari Group sands; Arenosols and Cambisols (poor fertility, erosion-prone)	Low–Moderate
Surface Hydrology	No major rivers; shallow groundwater in the Kalahari Sequence aquifer	Moderate (pollution risk)
Socio-Economic	Rural communities reliant on subsistence farming; limited infrastructure	Positive development opportunity
Cultural Heritage	Memorial site of Chatambula Dickson Masida near DR3525	Sensitive cultural site; avoid disturbance

5. Anticipated Environmental Impacts

Construction Phase: - Vegetation clearance and soil erosion at borrow pits. - Localized dust, noise, and hydrocarbon pollution. - Waste generation (domestic and construction). - Potential disturbance to wildlife and livestock movement. - Health and safety risks for workers.

Operational Phase: - Improved access to healthcare and education facilities. - Reduced vehicle maintenance costs and improved road safety. - Possible minor increase in traffic noise and surface runoff.

6. Key Mitigation and Management Measures

Impact	Proposed Mitigation / Management Action
Vegetation loss	Restrict clearing to demarcated areas; preserve <i>Acacia erioloba</i> and <i>Baikiaea plurijuga</i> trees.
Borrow pits	Operate under approved permits; backfill and rehabilitate post-construction.
Water use	Use licensed boreholes; prevent wastage and contamination.
Waste management	Implement segregation and proper disposal at approved sites.
Hydrocarbon handling	Store fuel in bunded areas; use drip trays; manage spills promptly.

Impact	Proposed Mitigation / Management Action
Community safety	Provide signage, speed limits, and road safety awareness.
Cultural heritage	Protect Masida memorial site; maintain buffer zone of ≥ 50 m.
Employment	Prioritize local recruitment and training.

7. Public Participation

- Notices were published in The Namibian Sun, Allgemeine Zeitung, and Republikein (11 & 18 February 2025).
- Public meetings were held in Makanga and Masida villages (25 February 2025).
- Stakeholders included the Zambezi Regional Council, Linyanti Constituency, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health and Social Services.
- Concerns raised included compensation, tree removal, alignment proximity to homesteads, and communication procedures; all were addressed in the report.

8. Project Team and Contact Details

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10. Invitation to Participate

All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to: - Register for inclusion in the consultation process. - Submit written comments or concerns by the closing date of the consultation period. - Attend upcoming public meetings to provide input.

Submissions should be directed to Enviro Management Consultants Namibia (EMCN) using the contact details above.